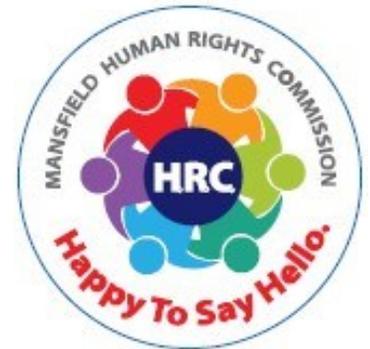


# Mansfield Human Rights Commission Members

**Jeannine Kanadia (Chair)** moved to Mansfield with her diverse family in 2010. Her degree is in Rehabilitative Services with a concentration in Human Service Agencies. Over half of her adult life, she has helped people in all age groups with varying impairments to succeed in life. She has been a case manager in PA, senior Vocational Rehab Counselor with the state of FL (including liaison with Indigenous People and veterans), and paraeducator in Mansfield, CT (retired). Jeannine reaches out to all age groups; however, she concentrates on the youth. She and some local youth have made a “quilt” representing what peace, trust, and human rights look like to them. Jeannine also holds a certification as a human rights consultant and can assist with training programs to help people understand what human rights are and how they can help everyone.



**Grace Pereira Lopes (Vice Chair)** has lived in Mansfield since 2001, attending Mt. Hope Montessori, Southeast Elementary, Mansfield Middle, and E.O. Smith High School where she was a devoted member of Amnesty International, and worked closely with students with intellectual and developmental disabilities through Best Buddies. She earned her Bachelor’s degrees in both Human Rights and Political Science from UConn in 2023, and her Master of Arts in Human Rights from UConn in 2024. Her research focuses on international humanitarian law, crimes against women, genocide, and femicide. She has worked for several summers aiding Afghan, Syrian, and Ukrainian refugee resettlement through Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) and The Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition (CIRC). Grace comes from a long line of activists and freedom fighters, attending women’s marches and protests in her youth alongside her mother and grandmother, also lifelong Mansfield residents.



**Jane Fried** has lived in Mansfield since 1973 when she arrived to pursue her doctorate at UConn. Her first job at the university was director of staff training for the Department of Residential Life. That experience was her initiation to the serious issues of racism and other types of discrimination prevalent in Connecticut. She has also worked privately on equity issues with colleges and universities, health organizations and public schools. As Chair of the HRC she initiated the “Happy to Say Hello” campaign, and organized public events such as an interfaith dialogue and a training session on ways to engage in “difficult dialogues”. Jane is available to conduct no- cost training programs on human rights issues for any community group.

The **Rev. Dr. Debra Pallatto** has been a member of the Human Rights Commission for the last two years and advocates for peace and justice in her role as committee member and pastor. She received her graduate degrees at UConn and was a primary grade classroom teacher and then college professor for more than 40 years. She currently serves the Second Congregational Church of Coventry, UCC.



## Mansfield Human Rights Commission Members

**Hasana Davis** is a student at Edwin O. Smith High School and has lived in Columbia for three years. She cares deeply about making rigorous curriculum, an equitable education accessible to all students, and about expanding access to opportunities that allow every student to fully engage in all aspects of school life. Hasana serves as Head Chair of the Equity Council, where she leads student-driven initiatives for school and structural change that strengthen inclusive school practices and student belonging. She is also an active participant in Amnesty International/Human Rights Club and Model United Nations, reflecting her passion for both human rights close to home and at the international level. Beyond her school work, she participates in local protests, is a member of the Columbia Democratic Town Committee, and advocates for youth perspectives in local civic conversations and community initiatives. As a Human Rights Close to Home Fellow at the University of Connecticut, she has researched academic inequities in the public school system and developed student-centered programs to better support incoming freshmen from diverse backgrounds. She is honored to serve on the Mansfield Human Rights Commission and looks forward to continuing to learn from and contribute to the Mansfield community.